

## Message Text

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52

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EA-13 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IGA-01 AID-10 DODE-00 H-01

RSR-01 /065 W

----- 058407

R 280900 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 905

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LIMDIS

EO 11652 N/ A

TAGS PINS, OREP, VS

SUBJECT: STAFFDEL MOOSE- LOWENSTEIN: QUESTION ON POLITICAL PRISONERS

1. RICHARD MOOSE OF SFRC STAFF PRESENTED EMBASSY WITH A LIST OF SIX QUESTIONS RE POLITICAL PRISONERS BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM SAIGON. TEXT OF HIS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS WITH EMBASSY' S RESPONSES FOLLOW. EMBASSY POSES NO OBJECTIONS SHOULD DEPARTMENT WISH TO EXPAND UPON OR MODIFY THE RESPONSES BEFORE TRANSMITTING THEM TO THE SFRC.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: I HAVE BEEN ASKED BY SENATOR CASE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING THE QUESTION OF PRISONS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SOUTH VIETNAM. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR OBTAINING RESPONSES TO THE FOLLWOING QUESTIONS FROM THE APPROPRIATE SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE MISSION:

Q(1) DOES THE MISSION BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE NON- COMMUNIST POLITICAL PRISONERS IN RVN PRISONS AND DETENTION CENTERS? IF SO, APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY?

A. THE MISSION BELIEVES THERE BETWEEN 500 AND 1,000 PRISONERS IN GVN CUSTODY WHO ARE A. NON- COMMUNIST, AND B. HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND IN MOST CASES TRIED AND CONVICTED, FOR OFFENSES  
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AGAINST RVN LAWS ARISING OUT OF THEIR ANTI- GVN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES,  
BOTH VIOLENT AND NON- VIOLENT.

Q(2) DOES THE MISSION BELIEVE THAT PRISONERS AND DETAINEES OF  
THE RVN ARE ABUSED?

A. THE MISSION BELIEVES IT LIKELY A SMALL NUMBER OF PRISONERS,  
ESPECIALLY STUF- THE-  
HOUR WHO CAN REBUILD JORDAN' S ARAB TIES.

3. RIFA' I MADE SIMILARLY- MOTIVATED VISIT TO CAIRO AND DAMASCUS  
IN JULY, 1972 IN COMPANY OF TRIBAL LEADER AKIF AL FAYEZ; THIS  
PREVIOUS EFFORT ONLY SUCCEEDED IN ANGERING HUSSEIN. KING' S  
APPARENT INDIFFERENCE THIS TIME BY BE OCCASIONED BY DEBILITY  
FROM CONCURRENT BOUT WITH CHICKENPOX. WE ARE INCLINED TO BE-  
LIEVE MASRI' S REPORT THAT MUCH- TOUTED TALK WITH SADAT IS FICTION-  
AL AND SHARE HIS ASSESSMENT THAT RIFA' I IS NOT MAKING MUCH HEAD-  
WAY IN CAMPAIGN TO PROVE HIMSELF INDISPENSIBLE. RIFA' I OCCUPIES  
APPROXIMATELY SAME PORTION OF POLITICAL SPECTRUM AS EX- PRIMIN  
BAHJAT TALHOUNI, WHO ALSO HAS AMBITIONS BUT HAS BEEN PLAYING  
MORE DISCREET GAME.  
BRUBECK

CONFIDENTIAL  
NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* LIMDIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:**  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 28 APR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Subject:** STAFFDEL MOOSE- LOWENSTEIN: QUESTION ON POLITICAL PRISONERS  
**TAGS:** OREP, PINS, VS  
**To:** PM  
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